

Week's Allied Battle Deaths

From News Dispatches

SAIGON, Nov. 21—American battle deaths dropped sharply last week to their lowest point in five weeks, the U.S. Command reported Thursday.

South Vietnamese losses were also down, to their lowest point in four weeks.

Communist battle deaths, on the other hand, showed an increase over the previous seven-day reporting period, rising to 1838 from 1601.

The U.S. Command said 127 American servicemen were killed last week, the lowest figure since the week ending Oct. 19, during which 100 died. The week before last, 166 Americans were killed.

Last week's South Vietnamese casualties—128—were 72 fewer than the previous week's and the lowest since the week ending Oct. 26, when 109 were killed in action.

No new major ground actions were reported Thursday by the U.S. Command, but in the area south of Danang,

which has been the scene of several encounters this week, a total of 46 North Vietnamese soldiers were killed in two clashes.

At least 10 enemy rockets fell into the headquarters of the U.S. 1st Marine Division six miles southwest of Danang, but damage and casualties were reported light. After returning the fire, Marines landed by helicopter at the rocket sites and found six North Vietnamese bodies and 20 firing ramps fashioned from dirt.

Decrease as Red Toll Rises

Three U.S. aircraft—a Marine CH-46 helicopter, an F-100 Supersabre jet and an F-4 Phantom jet fighter-bomber—were reported shot down near Danang. Eight Americans were killed and 12 injured.

The North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry accused the United States of placing artillery inside the southern half of the Demilitarized Zone and shelling three North Vietnamese villages in the northern half on Nov. 16, 17, 20 and 21. The Ministry announcement, monitored in Hong Kong,

said the artillery fire was supported by offshore U.S. warships.

[The U.S. Command in Saigon has said no U.S. troops have entered the buffer between the two Vietnams since

the bombing halt over North Vietnam was ordered Oct. 31. It has charged the North Vietnamese with firing from the DMZ into allied positions to the south and said these positions have returned fire.]

Following are allied and Communist casualties for the last two weekly reporting periods:

	DEAD		WOUNDED	
	Nov. 16	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 9
U.S.	127	166	1031	1253
S. Vietnamese	128	200	644	798
Communist*	1838	1601#	—	—

*U.S. Command's figures. #Revised upward. —Not compiled.